CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A radio mobile telecommunications system comprises a base transceiver station arranged to manage a plurality of mobile systems within at least one telecommunications cell; the base transceiver station having means to provide an acquisition indication channel by which a first acknowledgement signal is sent to indicate that the strength of the preamble signals of increasing strength sent by a mobile system to the base transceiver station has reached a predetermined acceptable level; characterized in that said first acknowledgement signal is arranged to indicate in addition that the mobile system must not send a message signal for a predicted time since resources at said base transceiver station are currently unavailable to process said message signal, but must send upon expiry of the predicted time a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level; and the base transceiver station having means to send a further acknowledgement signal in response to the further preamble indicating that the mobile system is permitted to send the message signal.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A method of operating a radio base transceiver station comprising:[-]

receiving spaced preambles of increasing strength from a mobile station;

sending a preamble acknowledgement signal on an acquisition indication channel when a preamble reaches an acceptable strength wherein the preamble acknowledgement signal further indicates that the mobile system is not permitted to send its message signal for a predicted period since resources at said base transceiver station are currently unavailable to process said message signal, but must send upon expiry of the predicted period a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level;

receiving said further preamble from the mobile station;

sending a preamble acknowledgement signal of a second type indicating that the mobile station is permitted to send its message signal; and

receiving the message signal from the mobile station.